

INTRO TO AUDIO RECORDING

PREVIOUS REQUIRED EXPERIENCE: none

Intro to audio recording is a class for students of any age interested in learning basic recording techniques. Topics covered include:

- Popular recording formats and file types, with a primer in Digidesign ProTools recording software. Differences between analog and digital recording, sample rates and bit depth as well as the pros and cons of various file formats including .WAV, .AIF, .MP3.
- Microphone types and uses including condenser and dynamic, large and small diaphragm and polar patterns. General mic techniques and preamp technology.
- Overview of basic mixing console design and layout, grouping bussing and routing in a studio. Connections and their differences, including balanced, unbalanced and other standard connections.
- Proper monitor setup and control room layout. How to best insure your mixes translate well to other playback systems.
- Equalization, uses and types including fully and semi parametric as well as graphic EQ.
- Dynamics processing, including compressors, expanders, limiters and noise gates and their use for vocal and instrumental recording
- Delay based effects, including reverb, chorus, echo and flangers.
- Plug-ins and virtual instruments from within ProTools
- MIDI technology and its various uses from synthesizers to machine control.

Students will learn techniques for making high quality audio recordings, culminating in a recording project made by each individual or groups of individuals based on the number of students.

INTERMEDIATE AUDIO RECORDING

PREVIOUS REQUIRED EXPERIENCE: Intro to Audio Recording or similar life experience

Intermediate audio recording is a class for students of any age interested in learning intermediate recording techniques. Topics covered include:

- Intermediate techniques and applications within Digidesign ProTools recording software
- Microphone techniques including drumset techniques, ambient techniques and vocal chain techniques.
- Intermediate console techniques including grouping, sub-mixing and outboard processing via inserts.
- Proper monitor setup and control room layout. Live room setup and isolation options. Monitoring setup for the performer and talkback systems.
- Intermediate equalization, uses and types including fully and semi parametric as well as graphic EQ.

- Intermediate dynamics processing, including compressors, expanders, limiters, noise gates and delay based effects, including reverb, chorus, echo and flangers. This class will take a more in depth look at these tools and their uses.
- Intermediate Plug-ins and virtual instruments from within ProTools including “Beat Detective” and pitch and time correction.
- Intermediate MIDI technology and its various uses in the studio.

Students will learn intermediate techniques for making high quality audio recordings, culminating in a recording project made by each individual or groups of individuals based on the number of students. Focus in this class is less of an overview and more detailed information and techniques in a limited number of areas. It is expected that these students have already made their own recordings and are familiar with all of the topics in the INTRO TO AUDIO RECORDING class. A questionnaire is available to assess student knowledge level for those unsure which class is right for them.

INTRO TO MUSIC FOR FILM/TV

PREVIOUS REQUIRED EXPERIENCE: basic knowledge and performance ability on at least one instrument as well as good general knowledge of music theory and notation.

Intro to music for film/tv is a class for students of any age interested in learning techniques for scoring music for either broadcast or film work. Topics covered include:

- A study of notable composers including, Alfred Newman, Alan Menken, John Williams, Carter Burwell, Danny Elfman, Hans Zimmer and others
- Discussion of standard terms and techniques used in film scoring including hits and bumpers, soundalike and music beds as well as a discussion of SMPTE timecode
- An introduction to notation software including Sibelius and Finale and virtual instruments to realize the score.
- Discussion of common use formats including Radio and TV jingles, TV series scoring, movie scoring, music for games and examples of such.
- Discussion of instrumentation and intended emotional reaction to different uses of instrumentation and compositional techniques.

Students will compose music for various video examples and critique and discuss why they think each piece works or doesn't. Clips will include a 30 second TV commercial, a TV News show intro and a 1:00 film underscore. Students will be expected to complete projects on a computer based notation program (several free or open source programs are available) or record their score for playback in class.